



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Japan

### Solid Wood Products

## Japan's Fiberboard Production Steady – MDF Up 2004

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**Report Highlights:**

Japanese fiberboard production, including particleboard, hardboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF) and insulation board, was 2,099,000 cubic meters (m3) in 2003, up slightly from the previous year. Notably, MDF production, 20% of total fiberboard production, was up 2.4 percent to 420,000 m3.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
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Tokyo [JA1]  
[JA]

Japanese fiberboard production, including particleboard, hardboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF) and insulation board, was 2,099,000 cubic meters (m3) in 2003, up slightly from the previous year. Distribution of Japanese fiberboard in 2003 was 3,010,785 cubic meters, down 0.1% from the previous year.

Particleboard accounted for 59% of fiberboard production, up approximately 1% up from the previous year. A significant portion particleboard is now being used as floor underlayment in low-cost apartment housing construction.

Hardboard production also grew slightly from the previous year, due to small but new demand in the packaging materials sector.

Insulation-board production declined 5% from the previous year, due to continued decline in the "*Tatami*-rooms" market, traditional Japanese style rooms.

MDF production was 420,000 m3 in 2003, up 2.4% from the previous year. This was partly because of the new market demand for MDF shifted from thin plywood to medium density fiberboard as the preferred materials for secondary manufacturing, including furniture and fixtures, and partly to substitute in for the year-on-year decline in Japanese MDF product imports last year. Fiberboard imports is discussed in detail in JA4022.

The following table is a summary of the product mix in Japanese industry production.

Japanese Fiberboard Production in 2003		
Product Line	Volume (m3)	% Change (03/02)
Particle board	1,248,578	+ 0.9%
MDF	420,098	+ 2.4%
Insulation board	365,961	- 5.3%
Hard board	64,660	+ 0.5%
Total	2,099,297	+ 0.1%
Fiberboard Imports	911,488	- 0.3%
Total Fiberboard Distribution	3,010,785	- 0.1%

(Source: Japan Fiberboard Industry Association)

End of Report.